

California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program

NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

April 2000

SCHOOL POLICY ANALYSIS PROJECT TELEPHONE WORKSHOP

On March 29, 2000, the California EMF Program held a telephone workshop to allow stakeholders and interested parties the opportunity to ask questions and get clarifications from the developers about the School Policy Analysis Project. The purpose of this workshop was to assist participants in preparing written comments to the Program on the project's public comment draft. In addition to EMF Program staff, approximately ten stakeholders and members of the public participated in this workshop, which lasted from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Project developers Keith Florig and Brock Bernstein clarified issues ranging from the assumptions used in the model to the interpretation of tables included in the report. The program staff hopes that this workshop was helpful for all participants, and believes that it will improve the quality of the comments received on the draft materials.

SCHOOL POLICY ANALYSIS PROJECT COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The comment period on the School Policy Analysis Project draft report and model has been extended through May 8, 2000, because the model documentation and instructions are not yet available. The research staff believes that this documentation, which is referenced at several points in the draft report, would be helpful to members of public in commenting on the materials that have already been released. The documentation is expected to be available by late April, and will be distributed to members of the public upon request. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the documentation when it becomes available, please contact Myra Alcaide at (510) 622-4434 or e-mail emf@dnai.com and ask for the "School Policy Project Model Documentation." Comments on all materials related to this project are now due in the program's office by noon on Monday, May 8, 2000. Please mail comments to the program's address, e-mail them to emfadmin@dnai.com, or fax them to (510) 622-4505, and direct them to Jack Collins.

PROJECT MILESTONES MARCH 16, 2000, THROUGH APRIL 15, 2000

- School Policy Project Question and Answer Telephone Workshop held on March 29, 2000
- Prospective Miscarriage Study interim report sent to the Program's epidemiology peer reviewers

RESEARCH UNIT UPDATES

Risk Evaluation Guidelines: This project is now complete. The final draft was distributed to stakeholders and interested members of the public in December 1999, and the text is available on our Web site at <http://www.dnai.com/~emf/research.html>, or can be ordered for the cost of copying from City Copy Center (telephone (510) 763-0193).

School Policy Analysis: Keith Florig continues to work on the model documentation, which should be ready shortly. The draft report and computer software model are currently in their public comment period, which has been extended (see information elsewhere in this newsletter).

Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis: Detlof von Winterfeldt is reviewing the draft final report in the light of the SAC's comments before submitting it to the peer reviewers. The engineering consultants are continuing their review of the cost estimates contained in the project.

Epidemiology Workshop: Several papers have been peer reviewed by the journal *Bioelectromagnetics* and are now being revised by the authors. The paper by Dr. Thomas Erren has been accepted for publication, and some other papers are still undergoing peer review.

Prospective Miscarriage Study: The Kaiser team has submitted its interim report, titled "A population-based prospective study of personal exposure to magnetic fields (MF) during pregnancy and the risk of spontaneous abortion." This report is now being reviewed by the Program's outside epidemiology peer review panel.

School Exposure Assessment Survey: This project is complete.

Occupational Exposure Study: The final report has been drafted and is now being reviewed by the Principal Investigator, Michael Yost, before submission to the Program. Once this draft is received, it will undergo peer review before being finalized.

Policy Integration: The outline of this project has been finalized with the CPUC. Further work on this project will be done when the risk evaluation and the policy analyses are substantially completed.

Risk Evaluation: Writing of the first draft has begun. Program staff is coordinating with the Department of Health Services' scientists to complete the evaluation as provided in the Risk Evaluation Guidelines.

EMF Program Library: Webb Sprague, with input from the rest of the staff, continues to monitor the literature to keep the Program's EMF library up to date.

EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT UPDATES

VIDEO ON CORRECTING IMPROPER WIRING IN SCHOOLS

Education Unit staff held a telephone conference with DuWayne Brooks of the Department of Education and Jon Sirugo of Southern California Edison to develop procedures for distributing the video on recognizing and correcting wiring errors. The

Department of Education has agreed to mail a copy of this video to every school district in the state. Program staff prepared a draft cover memo for the mailing and made sure that this and other written materials for the mailing were provided to the Department of Education to be revised as necessary and finalized. The Department of Education will handle the logistics of the mailing.

OUTREACH TO THE OAKLAND PTA

The Program's Health Educator, Jessica Hecht, met with the Oakland School District's Parent/Teacher Association Board on March 21, 2000, to introduce the Board members to the California EMF Program's school-related projects. The Board members received copies of the executive summaries of the School Policy Analysis Project public comment draft and the School Exposure Survey final draft. Some Board members requested and received copies of the full draft of the School Policy Project, and we hope to receive their comments during the project's comment period. This meeting with the Oakland PTA Board is the most recent activity in the Program's outreach to the California State PTA, which included presentations earlier this year to other PTA groups (as reported in the last newsletter) and the publication of short descriptions of the Program's school-related projects in two state PTA newsletters.

WEB SITE

The Education Unit, with the help of the program's research associate Webb Sprague, continues to update the content of the Web site to reflect progress on the Program's many projects. The site has been getting almost 300 visitors each week, and many of the questions the program receives from members of the public are sent by people who learned about the program from our Web site.

OTHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT ACTIVITIES

Meeting Support and Facilitation: The Program's Health Educator, with assistance from the administrative staff, coordinated and facilitated the School Policy Analysis Project Question and Answer Telephone Workshop.

Response to Public Questions: The Education Unit responded to telephone calls, e-mails, and letters from people with questions about EMF. As usual, staff received calls from a wide variety of people with questions on many different subjects, including EMF from power lines and appliances, and exposure in residences and businesses.

Support of the Research Unit: Members of the Education Unit participated in the School Policy Analysis Project telephone workshop and spent time reviewing that project's report. This unit's review focused on the readability and accessibility of the document.

Hiring a health education assistant: The Education Unit is in the process of hiring a part-time health education assistant to work on the many fact sheets and non-technical summaries of the research projects that the program would like to produce. This assistant will work under the supervision of the Program's Health Educator. Contact Jack Collins at (510) 622-4431 for information.

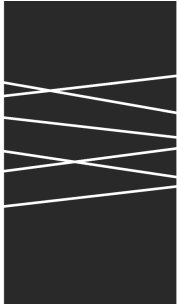
STATE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

DHS Case-Control Study: Gerri Lee has completed a draft of the DHS study, "A nested-control study of personal and residential magnetic fields measures and spontaneous abortions." The draft is now being reviewed by the EMF Program's outside peer review panel, which is also reviewing the Kaiser team's Prospective Miscarriage Study.

EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Raymond Neutra	622-4905	rneutra@dhs.ca.gov	Jessica Hecht	622-4430	jhecht@dhs.ca.gov
Alvin Leonard	622-4432	alvinleonard@yahoo.com	Jack Collins	622-4431	emfadmin@dnai.com
Vincent Del Pizzo	622-4418	delpizzo@yahoo.com	Myra Alcaide	622-4433	MAlcaid1@dhs.ca.gov
Geraldine Lee	622-5091	gerrilee17@yahoo.com	Webb Sprague	622-4500	emf@dnai.com

main phone (510) 622-4500, fax (510) 622-4505



California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program

A project of the California Department of Health Services and the Public Health Institute
Elihu Harris State Office Building
1515 Clay St., 17th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612